

Chapter 20

KADE

There was a large crowd of people waiting outside the hospital when we arrived, waiting to find out about Elle.

Apollo pulled up to the front door where there was a medical team waiting as well. Gabriel opened the back door while I picked her up and got out, cradling her to my chest. I finally allowed the relief to flood through me because we got her here safe and sound. My heart refused that relief until I knew that she was safe, and now she was.

"This is the best medical staff from our pack," Gerald, another Council member explained so that I understood that they were trustworthy.

"Thank you all. The healer said she'll need a blood transfusion. She's O negative, so I'll donate as much as possible for her before we rely on the blood here. I don't even trust this pack as far as I can throw it."

The doctor acknowledged what I said and had me lay her down on the gurney so that they could get started on her. My arms were both hooked up to donate blood not even ten minutes later. Alpha shifter healing allowed them to take blood faster than a human could. I was okay with that because it just meant she would get it sooner.

Gabriel and Apollo kept me company in the room that Elle would be brought to when they were done with her. I was glad that I was not alone right now because I would most certainly break under the weight of worry and fear that was circulating inside of me.

"There's fifteen other people on our side that are O negative as well just so you are aware in the event that she needs more and have all offered to help out," Apollo said.

"That's a relief to hear because I would rather take them up on their offer instead of giving her blood from this miserable pack."

Minutes ticked by into hours that felt like an eternity. Tyre was still laying down, mournful for his mate. They ended up taking as much blood from me as they could but also collected a few donations in the event that they needed more later on.

Apparently, there was a vigil being set up outside the hospital for Elle. The Omegas made sure to keep everyone fed even though they were not asked to. They did it because that was the type of people they were. A type of people that anyone should be proud to call a friend and pack member.

Apollo also told us that many of the warrior's mates had come to help the Omegas out because they hated what their mates had done to them and to Elle, but they were not able to stop them because they were being treated the same

exact way by their own mates. Come to find out, not all of them had entered into the mate-bond willingly. Even still, more were not even truly mated but were forced to live like it. They were happy when the warriors got locked up.

It was truly despicable what sufferings had been tolerated in this pack. The Council said they wanted to discuss a few things with me later about it all.


The doctor finally came back in after the three-and-a-half-hour mark, looking utterly exhausted. I jumped up to hear how she was doing.

"We've gotten everything closed up and cleaned up. The healer came and explained to us the state that she was in when you found her. You did a good job of washing the wolfsbane off so that her wolf can begin to fully heal her," he said.

His words confused me. He just said that she was closed up and cleaned up. If that were the case then why would Faye need to fully heal her? There was obviously something he had not explained about this, so I decided to be direct.

"What do you mean so that Faye can begin fully healing her? You just said that you closed everything up." I tried my best to keep my voice as calm as possible.

"She's physically healed, Alpha. However, she has not shown any signs of waking up yet even after we reversed her sedation. Most shifters respond immediately when their



sedation is reversed. Your Luna sustained significant trauma, so it's possible that her wolf was shielding her to the point of exhaustion, and your Luna might just need more time," he explained.

I stared at him, waiting for a punchline or something because he had to be joking right now. He was using words like 'possible' and 'might' as if those words were acceptable right now. This was not a time to base things off assumptions. This was a time for clear answers and understanding.

"Have you ever come across this happening before?" I asked, my brows furrowing.

The doctor looked nervous, and I realized that Tyre lost control of his aura a little bit with his emotions running rampant. He pulled it back, but the doctor still seemed nervous.

"No, Alpha, I haven't. However, I'm just one doctor and haven't seen every case. There's nothing to worry about yet. Just be with your mate. The mate-bond will help her. We did move her to a different room though, so I'll lead you there if you'll follow me."

Gabriel and Apollo stood up and waited for me before we followed the doctor down the hallway. Council warriors were stationed outside of a door at the end of the hallway. They both bowed their heads to me before opening the door for us all to walk through.



At least this time seeing her behind a door was with her lying in bed looking like she was just sleeping instead of how we found her earlier. I would never be able to get that image out of my head as long as I lived. She looked small in this bed, but she was alive, and that was all that mattered.

I leaned down and placed a kiss to her lips and another to her forehead. I would give anything for her to open those beautiful blues of hers, but it would happen when it was the right time. I just had to be patient.

"Please don't hesitate to get us if you need anything. This button here will call the nurses desk. We have her on a saline drip just to keep her hydrated an antibiotic just to ensure that she doesn't catch an infection since she didn't have access to her wolf while the wolfsbane was on her. Only the Council's staff is on right now, so nobody will harm your Luna. You have my word," the doctor said before bowing his head and leaving.

I pulled a chair up next to the bed and held her hand. As crazy as the past twenty-four hours have been, it was worth it all because she was worth it all. We would leave this place behind and embark on our new life together. One where she was free to be who she wanted to be and do what she wanted to do. She would gain control once again.

"Apollo, can you please let the Council know that I'm free to talk if they are?" I asked him, looking at my friend.

He nodded his head and left. Gabriel pulled a chair up on the other side of the bed and looked at Elle with such anguish in his eyes. I could only imagine what he had seen over the years. Vince explained earlier to Tyre that Gabriel would care for her and tending to her wounds.

"She's always been one hell of a fighter. Selene told her that her destiny would be hard and painful but worth it when Elle was only ten. You'd think that those words would scare every pup no matter what but not her. She told me that she'd take anything and everything because it would be worth it in the end," Gabriel said with a fond smile.

I chuckled because I could imagine her reacting that way just from the little bit I learned about her so far. I could not wait to truly get to know her. I wanted to know her hopes and dreams. Likes and dislikes. Anything and everything about this sweet mate of mine.

"I've been blown away with her resilience, strength, and compassion. I hate that she went through any of it, but it did make her into that fighter. They made her into their own destruction, so hopefully they'll see the irony in that. Especially that very dead warrior. You saw how his composure fell immediately when I mentioned that Elle got to decide?" 1

That caused us both to laugh. That would be a moment that I would be relaying to her as many times as she wanted to hear it. I could not wait to tell her all about the Alpha

interrogation.

I also wanted to tell her about Grant. She would be happy to hear that he left with a smile on his face and hope for the future. It would bring a smile to her own face when I relayed his message to her.

There was a knock at the door, and the Council stepped in the room. Their eyes immediately took in Elle's state. They asked what the prognosis was, so I told them what the doctor told us. They looked at each other surprised. They seemed to be on the same page as us that this was not how things typically worked. Again, I would not freak out right now. I had to keep reminding myself of that.

"Keep us updated on her progress. We wanted to talk to you about what we're going to do with this pack. Obviously, there's nobody to take over, and many suffered underneath the leadership's negligence and brutality. We don't have anything available in our pack just yet because we've been taking in refugees that fled from other packs. Would it be possible for any of them to go with you?" Thompson asked.

I placed a kiss to the back of my mate's hand because I already knew what she would want even without needing to ask. I looked over to Gabriel who just gave me a knowing look because he could tell what my answer would be.

"We had already agreed to take all the Omegas who wanted to come once the tribunal was over. Apollo mentioned that many of the warrior's mates were being treated the same as

the Omegas, some were forced into the mate-bond, and many were not even actual mates but forced to live and act as them. Those who are not at fault for the cruelty in this pack will be welcome at Nightshade as long as they agree to our rules. They also have to agree to an Alpha command that ensures they don't speak about our sanctuary status. We don't give leniency against those who want to harm our pack even if it's our own pack members," I said so that they were well aware of my stipulations.

They nodded in understanding while Thompson jotted down some notes on his phone. They all understood how dangerous it was for anyone to know that we were a sanctuary for gifted wolves. It would be a calling card for every power-hungry pack to try taking Nightshade by force. That was precisely why every pack member was placed under a strict Alpha command regarding it. My command was very specific which also included any type of communication about it which included verbal, written, charades, or even drawings.

Now with the fact that Elle had this destiny thing ... I would need to see how she wanted to proceed. I was even wary about anyone in the pack knowing besides Apollo and Connor. I was not saying that I did not trust my pack members, but that knowledge had value. That value outweighed loyalty at times.

"Understood. Who would be best to help field some of Blue Crest's liabilities?" Gerald asked.

I looked to Gabriel because that would be best answered by him since I had absolutely no idea.

"Will you have an Omega named Paula come here? Her mate was the injured man they lured us out with. She's the best one to do it, but we should explain a few things to her first. She's gifted as well. Not a full-blown seer, but she is able to pick up on many things that nobody else can," Gabriel explained.

That was a good choice actually. I understood that she was newer, but he could pair her up with someone else as well. Gerald left the room, so we waited for him to bring her back.

My thumb rubbed circles on the back of her hand. While it did nothing to wake her up, it made me feel calmer. The sparks reminded me that we saved her. They also helped Tyre because he could not talk to Faye yet. She still had not awakened at all.

"Want to know something exceptional?" Thompson asked. I looked at him and nodded. "Your bond has strengthened since earlier. Before, it resembled one that had been forged for three years or so. Now, it's steadily at seven. Imagine how strong it'll be once you're fully mated. It makes sense knowing who she is now. I was wrong earlier though. Your bond wasn't strengthened because of Eric. Your bond was strengthened because she chose to belong to you. She strengthened your bond even if she didn't realize that she was doing it. The Goddess has the ability to bless bonds just

like she blessed Elle's and Gabriel's. Elle blessed yours."

I turned my eyes back to my mate and pushed some of her hair off her face. She was incredible. She would have been just as incredible had she been a regular shifter or even a human. I did not care about any of that. I just cared about her.

The door opened and Paula stepped in. Her hand covered her mouth when she looked at Elle.

"None of that Paula. What did I already tell you? She'll kick your ass. We have a mission for you. The Council will be shutting down this pack, but Alpha Kade has agreed to offer those who were not at fault for cruelty in this pack a place at the Nightshade pack. However, not everyone who was victimized by the warriors or leadership were faultless of other cruelties. Get Marsha, Jedd, Judith, and Xavier together with the Council so that they can come up with a plan to assess liabilities. Elle would have all the answers for it, but we don't know when she'll be in commission once again. I'm sure that they can find you a room here to do some work," Gabriel said to her.

I watched Paula's shoulders square as she nodded in understanding. I could see why she would be perfect for this outside of her gift. She was determined to ensure that only those who were truly free of blame would go.

"Give them hell," I said with a wink before she left.

A nurse came in to check on her, but there was no change. As the minutes ticked into hours, my stomach twisted a little more. It had been five hours since the doctor came to get us before. Over seven-and-a-half hours since we got her here. She still had not even so much as twitched in all of that time.

Gabriel had not left either, but I could see how much this was getting to him too as well.

"Why don't you take Vince on a run? Maybe check in and see how Paula is faring. I'll be right here and link you if anything changes," I offered.

He looked torn between doing that and staying here. The difference was that he had been there every other time, and he had just as much pent-up anger as I did at the moment, but I had to remain here. I would have anyways, but the mate-bond was helping. I knew it was even though I was not certain how I did. We would just go with intuition.

"I'll bring you back some coffee," he said before kissing the top of her head and leaving.

I carefully moved her wires and tubes so that I could slide in next to her. Perhaps this would help more than just holding her hand. I would do anything that would help her right now. Thankfully, her scent was finally back after that issue with the wolfsbane. Hopefully, mine would soothe her just like hers was doing for me right now.



"Come on, darling," I whispered into her ear.




Shana Allen  Author

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Here was another chapter for you lovelies! Hopefully you enjoyed. Drop a comment/like/Gem to let me know what you thought.
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